

The list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of removal of abnormal infective prion proteins associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) from an aqueous liquid containing a natural product, which comprises passing the liquid through a depth filter formed of a matrix comprising solid particles of porous material and having a pore size providing a retention less than 6 μm , and so removing any abnormal infective prion proteins which may be present in the liquid.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the matrix comprises a binder.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the binder is cellulose.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according claim 1, wherein the solid porous particles are kieselguhr or perlite particles or mixtures thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the solid porous particles are diatomaceous earth particles.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, carried out in the absence of cationic or anionic charged material.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 carried out at a pH in the range 4 to 10.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the pore size is in the range 0.6 to 6 microns.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the pore size is in the range 0.6 to 1.5 microns.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the depth filter has a thickness of 2 to 5 mm.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the natural product is a protein.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous liquid comprises a blood plasma product.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the blood plasma product is selected from the group consisting of albumin, an immunoglobulin, Factor IX, thrombin, fibronectin, fibrinogen, Factor VIII, Factor II, Factor VII, Factor IX, and Factor X.

14. (Previously Presented) A liquid subjected to prion removal according to the method of claim 1.

15. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous liquid comprises an animal-derived product selected from the group consisting of heparin and hormones.

16. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the abnormal infective prion protein is associated with conditions selected from the group consisting of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy and scrapie.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of removing proteins from an aqueous liquid, comprising passing a protein-containing solution through a filter comprising a matrix having a solid particle comprising a porous material and a pore size of not

greater than 6 μm , wherein the protein is an abnormal infective prion protein and any abnormal infective prion protein present in the aqueous liquid is removed.

18. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising at least one component subjected to prion removal wherein the at least one component is obtained by passing a protein-containing solution through a filter comprising a matrix having a solid particle comprising a porous material and a pore size of not greater than 6 μm , wherein any prion contained in the protein-containing solution is removed.

19. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 18, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of food products, beverages, medicinal products and cosmetics.

20. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the abnormal infective prion proteins are completely removed and the liquid is non-infective with respect to prion protein infectivity.

21. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein removal of the abnormal infective prion proteins is achieved to an extent of at least 10^3 .

22. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein removal of the abnormal infective prion proteins is achieved to an extent of at least 10^4 .

23. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the filter is a single use filter.